UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/226
17 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on Albania, issued on 17 March 1997 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the Netherlands
to the United Nations

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ANNEX

[Original: English and French]

Brussels, 17 March 1997

Declaration by the Presidency of the European Union on Albania, issued on 17 March 1997

Ministers discussed at Apeldoorn on 15 and 16 March the grave situation in Albania. Welcoming the initiatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), they heard a report on the mission to the area on 14 March led by Mr. Vranitzky, personal envoy of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, with European Union participation. They noted the request of the new Albanian Government to the European Union for external assistance.

In their discussion, Ministers took note of the following elements:

(a) The European Union is strongly committed to helping Albania to restore civilian structures and law and order;

(b) The need for the Albanians to accept responsibility for rebuilding their country and society and thus to enable the European Union to help them;

(c) The Commission is ready to provide immediate humanitarian assistance as soon as conditions are sufficiently secure to assure its delivery;

(d) The Union which has already provided substantial economic and financial assistance to Albania, is ready to resume such assistance in collaboration with the international financial institutions once sufficient stability is restored;

(e) External assistance is needed immediately for the restoration of security in particular in and around Tirana. Among the Member States there was readiness to send an advisory mission in the civilian as well as police and military fields. In this context consideration will be given to the needs of the mission for protection and communication;

(f) Consultations should take place in New York on the need for a United Nations Security Council resolution;

(g) Further steps will be coordinated with OSCE as well as the Council of Europe.

The Presidency will send, as a matter of urgency, a high-level mission to Tirana comprising also representatives of OSCE, the Commission and Albania's European Union neighbours, Greece and Italy. Its aim is to discuss with the Albanian Government ways in which the European Union can best help to achieve the above elements and to make recommendations to the Presidency. The mission will also examine the protection need of the advisory mission.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/835
S/1997/227
18 March 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 81
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 14 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 7 March 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union regarding Zaire. The English and French texts are attached.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council.

(Signed) N. H. BIEGMAN
Permanent Representative of the
Netherlands to the United Nations

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Annex

Statement issued on 7 March 1997 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union regarding Zaire

The European Union reiterates its support for the efforts of the United Nations/Organization of African Unity special envoy for the Great Lakes region to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict in eastern Zaire.

In this connection the European Union welcomes the Zairian authorities' agreement to the five-point peace plan contained in United Nations Security Council resolution 1097 (1997). It regards this as an important step to be taken into account in advancing the process.

It calls upon all parties involved in the crisis in Zaire to endorse the peace plan put forward by the special representative of the United Nations and Organization of African Unity Secretaries-General and to give effect to its various provisions.

The European Union will continue its action vis-à-vis all its partners in the international community for the swift, full application of the United Nations and OAU peace plan.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/834
S/1997/228
17 March 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda items 33, 35 and 85
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Identical letters dated 17 March 1997 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Following my letters of 21, 25 and 27 February 1997 (A/51/805-S/1997/149, A/51/808-S/1997/157 and S/1997/165, respectively), I regret that I must bring the following to your immediate attention.

Less than 24 hours after the General Assembly's overwhelming adoption on 13 March 1997 of resolution 51/223, which called upon the Israeli authorities to refrain from all actions or measures, including settlement activities, which altered the facts on the ground, the Government of Israel reaffirmed its decision to proceed with the construction of a new settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim, south of East Jerusalem, and declared that work on the settlement would begin this week.

This Israeli decision serves as yet further proof of Israel's contempt for the will of the international community and its persistence in violating international law, United Nations resolutions and the agreements reached between the parties in the framework of the Middle East peace process. Some Israeli officials have made the situation even worse by making dangerous and rude statements, threatening the foundations of the peace process and even the mutual recognition between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

Obviously such an Israeli attitude is reinforced by the recurring impediment to the exercise of the appropriate mechanisms provided for in the Charter of the United Nations in similar situations. No other Member State has violated international law, relevant Security Council resolutions and other relevant United Nations resolutions as persistently as Israel has done.

The present serious situation, created by Israel's intransigence, as well as its flagrant challenges to the international community, necessitates action by the Security Council. We do hope that this time, under the current circumstances, the Council will be enabled to exercise its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations. We call upon the Security Council to do so and to demand specifically immediate and full cessation of all Israeli settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, especially the settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as an official document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33, 35 and 85, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations